



TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

D.R. "TOM" UHER  
Speaker Pro Tempore

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January 29, 1997

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Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission (FCC)  
1919 M Street, Room 222 NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket No. 96-159

Secretary:

I am writing to inquire as to the progress of providing interLATA, long-distance calling relief for my constituents in the Blessing, Texas exchange who have approved by ballot a non-optional, two-way local calling service known as Expanded Local Calling (ELC) into the Bay City Exchange. The Petitioning exchange of Blessing is in the Corpus Christi LATA while the Bay City Exchange is served by Southwestern Bell and is in the Houston LATA.

Enclosed please find a copy of the **MOTION AND PROPOSED ORDER TO PERMIT SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY TO PROVIDE INTERLATA NON-OPTIONAL EXTENDED LOCAL CALLING SERVICE BETWEEN CERTAIN EXCHANGES IN TEXAS** which was filed by the U.S. Department of Justice on February 28, 1995. Page 2 (1) of this *Motion* specifically addresses the petition of my constituents in the Blessing Exchange for ELC to the Bay City Exchange. As noted on Page 5 of this *Motion*, "the Department of Justice hereby moves that the Court enter an Order granting our motion to permit."

I am aware of the provisions of Section 271 of the Telecommunication Act of 1996 regarding the process for an interLATA waiver to be obtained by the Regional Bell Operating Companies (RBOC's). However, FCC Docket No. 96-159 was established to address the petition of Southwestern Bell to waive LATA boundaries in certain areas of Texas for ELC. To my knowledge, nothing has yet been decided on this issue.

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Briefly, Matagorda County is a rural county of approximately 37,000 residents. Bay City is the County Seat. Substantially all medical, dental, and hospital services are located in Bay City as well as most other professional services and retail businesses. The Blessing exchange covers a large part of Western Matagorda county and services an estimated 2000 residents; the townsite of Blessing is approximately 20 miles from Bay City, but the Blessing exchange covers several small towns (under 500 residents) and a large rural area of farms and ranches. These folks must call long distance to Bay City for their health, consumer, and agricultural needs. Some have cellular and ranch radio telephone service for which there are no long distance tariffs, but most residents do not have cellular or ranch radio. The Blessing exchange service area has a population that has a good percentage of senior citizens whose health needs are serviced in Bay City.

In closing, in 1993 I authored the ELC legislation in Texas to provide better services for rural Texans; in 1995 the Texas legislature passed a comprehensive telecommunications bill that included the 1993 ELC legislation in both instances. I had support from the telephone industry for ELC provisions. I respectfully request that you approve the interLATA ELCS between Bay City and Blessing/El Maton/Midfield exchange (Blessing exchange) as described in my first paragraph of this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom" with a stylized flourish.

D.R. "Tom" Uher

DRU/dr

cc: Senator Hutchinson  
Senator Gramm  
Congressman Ron Paul

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

WESTERN ELECTRIC COMPANY,  
INC., and AMERICAN TELEPHONE  
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY,

Defendants.

H.M. WILSON  
U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Civil Action No. 82-0192 HEG

**MOTION AND PROPOSED ORDER TO PERMIT SOUTHWESTERN BELL  
TELEPHONE COMPANY TO PROVIDE INTER LATA NON-OPTIONAL  
EXTENDED LOCAL CALLING SERVICE BETWEEN CERTAIN EXCHANGES  
IN TEXAS**

The Department has considered the attached application from Southwestern Bell Corporation in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Court's March 15, 1984, Memorandum Order, and concurs in the requests. Southwestern Bell Corporation submitted this request on behalf of its Southwestern Bell Telephone Company ("SWBT") subsidiary. The Public Utility Commission of Texas directed SWBT and GTE to seek waivers from this Court to enable them to provide Extended Local Calling Service ("ELCS") for several sets of exchanges in Texas. Those exchanges are Southwestern Bell's Bay City and Markham exchanges in the Houston LATA and GTE's Blessing/Elmston/ Midfield exchange in the Corpus Christi LATA; Southwestern Bell's Tyler exchange in the Longview LATA and United Telephone's Troup exchange which is associated with the Dallas LATA; and Southwestern Bell's Meridian exchange in the Waco LATA and Cantel's Clifton exchange, which is associated with the Waco LATA, and GTE's Morgan exchange which is associated with the Dallas LATA.